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SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (04/08): PALESTINIANS LAMENT LACK
OF RESPONSE TO HOME DEMOLITIONS

Main Stories:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION ON
APRIL 9 AS THE CONSULATE WILL BE CLOSED FOR A LOCAL HOLIDAY.

Al-Quds' runs a front- page highlight of President Obama's visit to
Iraq, highlighting that Obama said it was time for the Iraqi people
to rule themselves and that U.S. operations in Iraq should end. Al
Hayat Al Jadida runs similar inside coverage. Al Quds and Al-Ayyam
continue front page coverage of Obama's visit to Turkey, running
wire reports on Obama's remarks to students that peace in the Middle
East is possible and that Israel is not responsible for all of the
Middle East's problems. Al-Quds also runs an inside photo of Obama
visiting one of the largest and most popular mosques in Turkey. In
other presidential news, Al-Quds' front page announces that
President Obama is expected to visit Israel and the Palestinian
Territories in June.

Al-Quds' front pages a DPA report on a delegation led by Congressman
Lynch making a "discreet" two-hour visit to Gaza on April 7.
According to coverage, the goal of the visit was to "get an overview
of the Gaza situation after the recent conflict." The Congressmen
met with the head of UNRWA and were briefed on "the suffering of
Gazans." Reporting notes that the U.S. visitors did not meet with
any Hamas or other Palestinian leaders.

Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam lead with the killing by Israeli police of a
man from East Jerusalem who tried to run the police over with his
car. The two front pages also highlight the demolishing of the
family home of a Palestinian from East Jerusalem who was shot in
Jerusalem while attacking pedestrians and cars with a bulldozer last
year. All dailies run lead photos of Israeli soldiers guarding the
bulldozers demolishing the attacker's home. In related news,

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front pages an AFP report about the U.S. objecting to Israeli house demolitions, calling it "unconstructive punishment."

All front pages cover Palestinian Authority President Abbas' visit to Daghestan on April 7 to meet with its leader. Reporting also notes that Abbas met with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to discuss the political situation in the Palestinian territories, the upcoming Moscow Middle East peace conference, Palestinian national unity talks, Palestinian reconciliation, and Gaza reconstruction.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida leads with statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman stating that negotiations between Palestinians and Israel have reached a dead end and that Israel will be proposing new ideas. According to coverage that also appears on Al-Ayyam's front page, Israel does not intend to compromise on blocking the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Al Quds' front page cites a wire report about Palestinian Authority President Abbas' intention to form a transitional government before unity talks continue in Cairo on April 26. Abbas stressed that the people of Gaza could no longer wait for reconstruction to start. According to London-based Al-Hayat daily, Abbas feels that intra-Palestinian dialogue will take much longer than expected, though he remains committed to their success. Coverage also reports that Abbas will task Salaam Fayyad to form the transitional

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government.

Al-Quds runs a wire report on April 7 meetings between senior Fatah official Ahmad Quray and U.S. Consul General Walles and Middle East Quartet Envoy Tony Blair in the West Bank town of Abu Dis. Quray briefed his visitors on Palestinian unity talks and Fatah's sixth party conference. According to coverage that also appears on Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's front page, Quray urged the U.S., Middle East Quartet, and the international community to pressure Israel to halt "provocative measures" against Palestinians. Quray also noted that any negotiations that are not based on the Arab Peace initiative are "a waste of time." In a joint press conference for Blair and Quray, Blair announced an Israeli decision to transfer more than \$10 million in cash to Gaza.

All dailies front page coverage of Palestinian Authority (PA) Premier Fayyad and PA Minister of National Economy Hassunah attending an opening ceremony for a number of development projects in Tubas district in the northern West Bank on April 7. Premier Fayyad noted that the PA is keen to support the Palestinian economy and provide all needed support to ensure that Palestinians can remain on their land.

All dailies front page news that an "extremist Jewish organization" called on Jews and settlers to go to the Al-Aqsa mosque compound on April 8 and perform Passover rituals. -----

BLOCK QUOTES:

1) Al-Quds independent daily runs an editorial under the title, "Demolishing Jerusalemite houses and the international community's silence" (04/08): "Demolishing the houses of Jerusalemites is becoming a measure of collective punishment that Israel perpetrates on Palestinians residing in Jerusalem in order to evacuate the city y from its Arab citizens... these actions should be stopped by effective and continuous efforts on the part of the international community so that Palestinians are not left to face this attack alone, especially since the Israeli Government is supported by both its military power and judicial system that... rejects [legal] petitions submitted by Palestinians... where is the international community, where is the Arab Islamic world and what have they done to stop the attacks?"

2) Regular columnist Hani Habib opines in Al-Ayyam daily independent under the title, "Mitchell pitches the Arab Peace Initiative to Israel" (04/08): "The U.S. Administration represented by President Obama, Secretary Clinton and Special Envoy Mitchell sent [the new Israeli Government] a message that the Arab Peace Initiative is an

part important part of U.S. Middle East policy formulation... Netanyahu's Government will try to avoid conflict with the Obama Administration on that point and may take some steps toward satisfying the U.S. Administration by minimizing Palestinian suffering through Netanyahu's vision of the so-called economic peace. Netanyahu's Government might also, however, try to embarrass the U.S. Administration by using Arab and Palestinian division as a pretext for not achieving any progress on the Arab Peace Initiative."

WALLES